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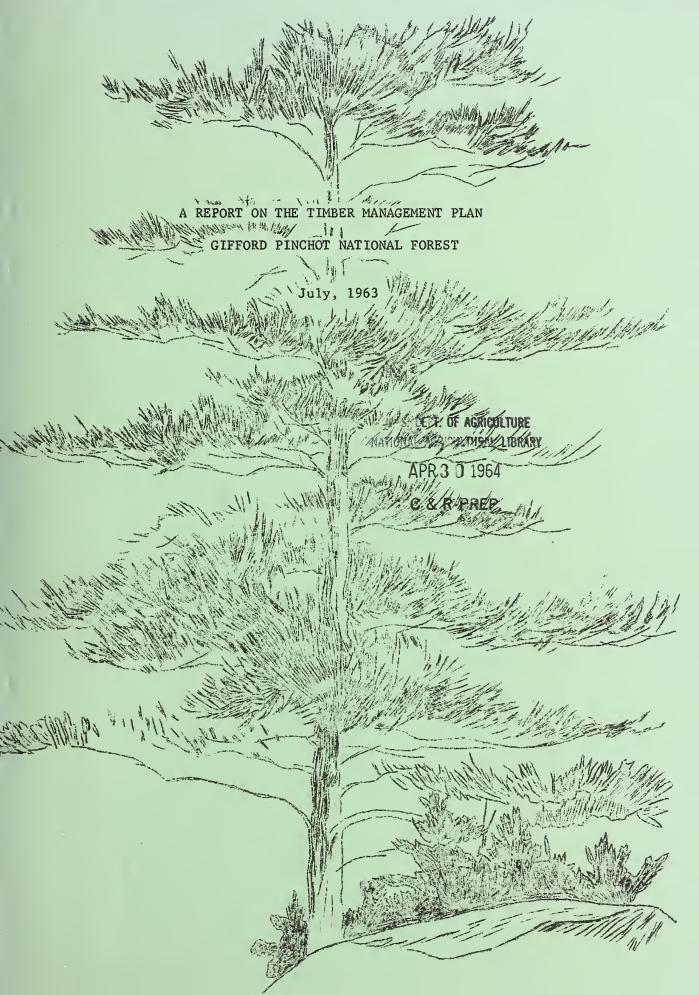


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July 25, 1963

## To the Stockholders of Gifford Pinchot National Forest

#### Dear Friends:

The Chief of the Forest Service has recently approved the new Timber Management Plan for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This plan will be in effect from July 1, 1962 through June 30, 1972. Prior to July of 1972, the timber resource on the Forest will be reinventoried and a new management plan will be prepared for the following ten-year period.

The plan contains material on the allowable annual cut, the distribution of this cut among the various Ranger Districts on the Forest, and an explanation of how the management of the timber resource will be coordinated with the other important forest resources and uses. We thought you would be interested in obtaining a very brief summary of some of the highlights of the plan.

## Allowable Cut:

The annual allowable cut is the amount of timber that can be harvested each year during the planned period under a program of sustained yield. The annual cut from this Forest during the planned period is 381 million board feet. This is down somewhat from the 395 million board feet in effect during the previous planned period. One of the main reasons for this decline is that the most recent inventory of the timber resource, which was more thorough than any previous inventory, indicated a reduction in volume of mature timber of approximately ten percent.

If the entire cut of 381 million board feet were to go into the construction of homes, it would provide enough dwellings to house a city with a population of 300,000. Actually, timber harvested from the Forest is converted into many different products and utilized in many ways.

Harvest of the full allowable cut each year accomplishes many benefits other than helping to supply the wood products we use daily. It provides continuous employment to a large segment of the State's leading industry; that of harvesting and processing forest products. At current stumpage rates, harvest of the allowable cut results in an annual return to the Treasurer of the United States of approximately \$7,250,000.00. Twenty-five percent of this, or \$1,812,500.00, is returned to the local counties, in lieu of taxes, for their school and road programs. Harvest of the allowable cut also is the only practical means of keeping the Forest in a healthy, growing condition.

Distribution of the allowable cut to the eight Ranger Districts on the Forest is as follows:



		Landscape	
Ranger District	Harvest Cut	Management Cut	Total
Canyon Creek	39	1	40 million
Lewis River	64	2	66
Mt. Adams	51	8	59
Packwood	36	4	40
Randle	94	2	96
Spirit Lake	9	1	10
Willard	24	1	25
Wind River	43	2	45
TOTAL	360	21	381 million

The Harvest Cut of 360 million board feet is that portion of the allowable cut that is being harvested from areas where timber production is perhaps the most important use of the land. The Landscape Management Cut is that portion being harvested from areas where recreational values are high. Timber is being harvested from these areas in a manner which protects, and in some instances, improves the recreational values involved.

There will be some departure from this distribution of the cut to the various Ranger Districts during the early stages of the planned period in order to avoid changing from the old to the new designated cuts at too rapid a pace.

### Coordination of Timber Harvesting with Other Values and Uses.

A determined effort was made in the preparation of the Timber Management Plan to closely coordinate the management of the timber resource with the management of all other forest resources. Special emphasis was placed on the protection of soil and water values. The commercial forest land was given loggability classifications based on the degree of soil damage that could normally be expected from road construction and timber removal. The most severe class, referred to as Loggability Class 4 in the management plan, consists of extremely steep slopes and shallow soils where timber removal alone would probably result in excessive damage to the soil. There were 23,000 acres in this classification on which no cut was computed as logging is not contemplated.

Loggability Class 3 contains those lands where the soil is also in critical balance, but where timber removal alone, if not accompanied by soil disturbance through log yarding and road construction, would not cause undue damage to soil and water values. These are lands that should not be logged with conventional equipment and methods. If specialized equipment, such as sky-line systems and helicopters, becomes economically adaptable to the area and the timber types, these lands can be logged. A cut of 24 million board feet was computed for the 92,000 acres in this classification, but not included in the announced allowable cut. When equipment is available and in use locally, timber harvested from these areas will not be chargeable to the Forest's cut of 381 million board feet.



Recognition was given in the plan to the ever increasing use of the Forest by recreationists. The District Rangers' Multiple Use Plans were consulted in order to determine and delineate areas with significant recreational values. Timber harvest on these areas will be modified to protect these values.

For example, there are 118,000 acres of dedicated land within the boundaries of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on which no cutting is planned. Included within this area are the Goat Rocks and Mount Adams Wild Areas. Much of this land does not support commercial stands of timber, but is noted especially for its scenic attractions.

There are another 38,000 acres of land outside of dedicated areas where the recreational values are so high that no timber harvesting is contemplated. Examples of these areas are Indian Heaven, Spirit Lake Basin and the Lakes Country north of Spirit Lake. If serious timber losses should occur in any of these areas through beetle epidemics, fire, etc., and if the timber could be salvaged without undue harm to aesthetic values, it would be sold. A good example of this is the salvage operation that is currently under way in the Spirit Lake Basin to remove the heavy blowdown suffered on October 12, 1962. Material being removed under this operation is not chargeable to the Forest's allowable cut.

There are also 74,000 acres of additional Landscape Management areas including road and trail-side zones, waterfront zones, campground buffers and huckleberry areas where a modified type of timber harvesting is contemplated designed to give full recognition to the recreational values involved. The allowable cut computed for these areas, 21 million feet, is based on the removal of the dead and down trees and the net growth. In most cases, the objective will be to maintain a continuous thrifty canopy of trees.

### Objectives of the Timber Management Plan:

The main objectives of the plan were to arrive at a realistic allowable cut for the Forest which recognizes the importance of all forest values and uses. Having arrived at the cut, it will be our goal to make available annually, the full allowable cut to dependent industry. This will not only contribute to the stability of local communities, but also improve the condition of the Forest through the removal of over-mature and defective timber.

In order to accomplish our objectives, it will be necessary to:

- Continue to develop the Forest with a network of timber access roads;
- Continue to reforest the old burns on the Forest as rapidly as funds are available; and

3. Continue to reforest the cutover areas as soon after logging as possible.

If any of you would like additional information on our Timber Management Plan, I hope you will have an opportunity to visit me or any of our District Rangers. We would welcome a visit and any comments or suggestions you might have.

Sincerely yours,

Oss wwilliams

ROSS W. WILLIAMS

Forest Supervisor







